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ABSTRACT

This document discusses the third report on high school graduates attending the City College of San Francisco (CCSF), focusing on students between fall 2000 and spring 2001. Report highlights include: (1) 53% of San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) students placed into college-level English courses--higher than previous years for SFUSD students but lower than other students in general; (2) 15% of SFUSD students placed into college-level mathematics courses--higher than previous reports have found but equivalent to other students in general; (3) of SFUSD English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) students, 11% placed into college-level ESL courses, a lower percentage than years before; (4) current SFUSD students took a heavier load of units (10.37 versus 10.17) compared with previous years, yet a lower GPA was found (average of 2.16 versus 2.19); (5) differences narrowed between SFUSD and other students, with percent of units passed being virtually the same; (6) the performance of SFUSD students and private San Francisco high school students was equivalent; (7) when examining the persistence of performance from fall to spring, data showed that 80% of SFUSD students re-enrolled, equivalent to previous years; and (8) SFUSD students had higher GPAs and percentage of units passed than students from private SF high schools. (CJW)

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The High School Report

The Placement, Performance and Persistence of Recent High School Graduates at City College of San Francisco

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The High School Report

The Placement, Performance and Persistence of Recent High School Graduates at City College of San Francisco

City College of San Francisco

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Executive Summary

This is the third High School Report on the placement, performance, and persistence of new 16 to 19 year old[1] high school graduates at the City College of San Francisco. The current report covers these students at CCSF in the Fall 2000 and Spring 2001. The prior reports covered a similar group of students from the Fall 1998 to the Spring 1999 and from the Fall 1999 to the Spring 2000.

This report examines only high school graduates and focuses upon the performance of students from the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD)[2] The current report includes weighted averages for SFUSD students. Other groups, including other California, U.S., and foreign high school graduates are included for comparison purposes. The performance of San Francisco private high school graduates is also included here for the first time. Aggregate averages as well as individual high school averages are included so that a fuller comparison of performance can be made.

For placement of high school graduates in English, ESL and mathematics, we found:

- 53% of SFUSD students placed in college level English, a percentage that is higher than prior year students, but SFUSD students received lower English placements than other students in both years.
- 15% of SFUSD students placed in college level math, a higher percentage than prior year students—this placement was equivalent to that of other students in general, but better than SF private high school students.
- 11% of ESL SFUSD students placed in college level ESL classes, a lower number than prior year SFUSD students.

For enrollment and performance of students, we found:

- The number of new high school graduates attending City College increased by 4 percent from last year's report while the number of SFUSD graduates increased overall by 8.6 percent.
- Current SFUSD students took somewhat more units (10.37 versus 10.17) compared to last year's students.
- They had a lower GPA (2.16 versus 2.19) with an equivalent 56 percent of units passed (with grades of A, B, C, or CR).
- The difference in performance between SFUSD students and others narrowed, still slightly favoring non-SFUSD students; the percent of units passed was virtually the same for both groups. SFUSD students had roughly equivalent performance to SF private high school students.

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[1] 98 percent of students in the 16 to 19 age group were either 18 or 19. Most of the rest were 17.

[2] The weighted average reflects the number of students from each high school so that the SFUSD average is not dragged down by small under-performing member high schools.

For persistence from Fall to Spring semesters, we found:

- 80% of SFUSD students re-enrolled for the Spring 2001. This was one percent higher prior year SFUSD student persistence and higher than the overall persistence rate for new 16-19 year old high school graduates (or equivalent).

For Spring 2001 performance for high school graduates we found:

- Performance was somewhat better than the prior year's students. Differences in performance between SFUSD students and others favored the non-SFUSD group. However, SFUSD students outperformed SF private high school students; they had noticeably higher GPA's and percent of units passed.

- SFUSD students showed improvement in placement, but this occurred in the context of a general improvement by all students. Only in ESL placement did SFUSD students perform somewhat less well than prior year students.

- Among SFUSD students, those from Balboa, Mission, Independence and McAteer had the most trouble in the fall, with smaller numbers re-enrolling in the spring semester. However, the spring performance of the remaining high school students from these four schools was noticeably better than the initial fall cohort from these schools.

Finally, this report presents a multi-year comparison of SFUSD student performance at CCSF. It shows an improving trend in many of the measures of performance and success, including college placement. A weighted measure of second semester GPA for SFUSD students, for example, shows an increase from 2.09 in Spring 1999 to 2.25 in Spring 2001. Other measures are also either holding steady or improving.

Introduction

This report is the third in a series examining the placement, performance, and persistence of new credit students recently graduated from high school in the 16 to 19 age group. It categorizes these students according to their high school of origin and within that whether or not their high school was a San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) high school. Otherwise it identifies students as coming from a private San Francisco high school or other high schools. Seven tables present students' initial placement in English, ESL and mathematics, their performance in Fall 2000 and Spring 2001 and their re-enrollment from fall to spring.

This report should be read keeping in mind the following conditions and constraints. First, the high school and age fields are self-reported, and consequently may not be absolutely reliable. We do think that students, for the most part, correctly identify their age and high school. Second, we use weighted averages in this report. The weighted average reflects the number of students from each high school so that the overall SFUSD average is not unduly skewed due to a small number of under- (or over-) performing students from particular high schools. The weighted average provides a better comparison to other high school group averages.

This report differs from the prior years' reports in that SFUSD schools are no longer broken out according to continuation, alternative and traditional high school categories. This year we are reporting the performance of SF private high schools as a separate category allowing for a comparison to SFUSD students. Fall and spring performances are no longer broken out by the college subject matter area, though overall performance in these semesters is still central. Finally, placement categories have been reduced to three: basic skills, degree applicable and transfer. These categories span the subject matter areas to which they are applied.

English, Math and ESL Placement Levels

The first three tables present the number and percentage of high school graduates placing in English, mathematics and ESL. To understand these tables one must understand the placement categories of basic skills, degree applicable, and transfer.

Basic Skills

Basic Skills is the lowest level placement meaning that students need substantial remediation before attempting college level classes.

Degree Applicable

The next highest level is degree applicable. This is still a remedial placement but units taken in these classes can be applied towards graduation at CCSF only.

Transfer (College Level)

The highest level is transfer or college level. These are classes that can be transferred to UC or CSU to fulfill graduation requirements. If the student successfully completes one of these courses, a student does not need to take a similar course once they transfer to a state university. English 1A (freshman composition), for example, is a CSU transfer level course. The next highest course, English 1B, is a UC transfer level course. These courses meet the English requirements for graduation in the CSU and UC systems.

Tables 1, 2 and 3 present the achievement level of incoming students through their placement into CCSF discipline sequences in English, mathematics and ESL. A little over half of the SFUSD students place in to a college level English course, but only 15 percent achieve a college level placement in mathematics.

Table 1

English Placement High School Graduates
Fall 2000

		Basic Skills		Transfer (College Level)		Total Number
Type	**High School**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	
Other	Foreign High School	4	57%	3	43%	7
	Other California High School	61	32%	128	68%	189
	Other SF High School	0	0%	2	100%	2
	Other US High School	10	20%	41	80%	51
	Other/Unknown High School	18	38%	30	63%	48
	San Mateo High School	66	51%	64	49%	130
Other Total		**159**	**37%**	**268**	**63%**	**427**
SF Private High School	Immaculate Conception Acad.	5	38%	8	62%	13
	Mercy High	4	27%	11	73%	15
	Other SF Private	9	38%	15	63%	24
	Riordan High	3	30%	7	70%	10
	Sacred Heart High	1	5%	19	95%	20
SF Private High School Total		**22**	**27%**	**60**	**73%**	**82**
SF Unified High School	Abraham Lincoln High	41	44%	53	56%	94
	Balboa High	39	67%	19	33%	58
	Galileo High	53	79%	14	21%	67
	George Washington High	56	43%	73	57%	129
	Independence High	9	36%	16	64%	25
	J. Eugene McAteer High	14	67%	7	33%	21
	John A. O'Connell Tech.	6	43%	8	57%	14
	Lowell High	5	5%	90	95%	95
	Mark Twain	3	50%	3	50%	6
	Mission High	33	80%	8	20%	41
	Other SF Public	47	55%	38	45%	85
	Philip Burton	21	42%	29	58%	50
	Raoul Wallenberg Traditional	7	32%	15	68%	22
SF Unified High School Total		**334**	**47%**	**373**	**53%**	**707**
Grand Total		**515**	**42%**	**701**	**58%**	**1216**

Table 2
Mathematics Placement High School Graduates
Fall 2000

		Basic Skills		Degree Applicable		Transfer (College Level)		Total Number
Type	**High School**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	
Other	Foreign High School	3	19%	6	38%	7	44%	16
	Other California High School	86	50%	74	43%	11	6%	171
	Other SF High School	0	0%	2	100%	0	0%	2
	Other US High School	15	35%	26	60%	2	5%	43
	Other/Unknown High School	18	17%	39	38%	46	45%	103
	San Mateo High School	54	41%	66	50%	13	10%	133
Other Total		**176**	**38%**	**213**	**46%**	**79**	**17%**	**468**
SF Private High School	Immaculate Conception Acad.	9	69%	4	31%	0	0%	13
	Mercy High	9	69%	4	31%	0	0%	13
	Other SF Private	9	43%	12	57%	0	0%	21
	Riordan High	3	33%	6	67%	0	0%	9
	Sacred Heart High	2	11%	14	78%	2	11%	18
SF Private High School Total		**32**	**43%**	**40**	**54%**	**2**	**3%**	**74**
SF Unified High School	Abraham Lincoln High	23	19%	70	59%	25	21%	118
	Balboa High	51	71%	17	24%	4	6%	72
	Galileo High	33	38%	41	47%	14	16%	88
	George Washington High	45	31%	81	56%	19	13%	145
	Independence High	17	68%	8	32%	0	0%	25
	J. Eugene McAteer High	17	41%	18	44%	6	15%	41
	John A. O'Connell Tech.	9	53%	7	41%	1	6%	17
	Lowell High	4	5%	38	48%	37	47%	79
	Mark Twain	2	33%	4	67%	0	0%	6
	Mission High	22	48%	16	35%	8	17%	46
	Other SF Public	49	54%	39	43%	2	2%	90
	Philip Burton	24	49%	23	47%	2	4%	49
	Raoul Wallenberg Traditional	7	33%	13	62%	1	5%	21
SF Unified High School Total		**303**	**38%**	**375**	**47%**	**119**	**15%**	**797**
Grand Total		**511**	**38%**	**628**	**47%**	**200**	**15%**	**1339**

Table 3
ESL Placement High School Graduates at CCSF
Fall 2000

		Basic Skills		Degree Applicable		Transfer (College Level)		Total Number
Type	**High School**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	
Other	Foreign High School	2	25%	4	50%	2	25%	8
	Other California High School	2	25%	5	63%	1	13%	8
	Other US High School	1	50%	1	50%	0	0%	2
	Other/Unknown High School	5	11%	31	67%	10	22%	46
	San Mateo High School	0	0%	2	50%	2	50%	4
Other Total		**10**	**15%**	**43**	**63%**	**15**	**22%**	**68**
Other SF Private Total		**0**	**0%**	**1**	**100%**	**0**	**0%**	**1**
SF Unified High School	Abraham Lincoln High	7	28%	14	56%	4	16%	25
	Balboa High	2	17%	10	83%	0	0%	12
	Galileo High	9	29%	20	65%	2	6%	31
	George Washington High	4	18%	17	77%	1	5%	22
	Independence High	0	0%	1	33%	2	67%	3
	J. Eugene McAteer High	2	14%	11	79%	1	7%	14
	John A. O'Connell Tech.	0	0%	2	100%	0	0%	2
	Lowell High	0	0%	1	50%	1	50%	2
	Mission High	4	27%	10	67%	1	7%	15
	Other SF Public	2	20%	5	50%	3	30%	10
	Philip Burton	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1
SF Unified High School Total		**30**	**22%**	**92**	**67%**	**15**	**11%**	**137**
Grand Total		**40**	**19%**	**136**	**66%**	**30**	**15%**	**206**

Fall 2000 Student Performance

Table 4 presents fall semester performance of new high school graduates at CCSF. SFUSD graduates achieved a Grade Point Average of 2.16, slightly below the 'other' category, but roughly equivalent to San Francisco private schools. Only Lowell High School graduates achieved a superior first semester performance. Students from Balboa, Independence, McAteer, Mark Twain and Mission high schools did not do well in their initial, fall semester.

Table 4
Enrollment and Success of New High School Graduates
Fall 2000

Type	High School	Number	Enrolled Units	GPA	Percent of Units Passed
Other	Foreign High School	20	9.50	2.64	73
	Other California High School	250	10.31	2.24	54
	Other SF High School	2	15.50	1.86	50
	Other US High School	67	9.22	2.32	55
	Other/Unknown High School	118	11.65	2.68	66
	San Mateo High School	152	9.90	2.16	54
	Total	**609**	**10.34**	**2.33**	**57**
SF Private High School	Immaculate Conception Acad.	15	8.73	1.84	36
	Mercy High	17	11.82	2.15	61
	Other SF Private	28	11.14	2.13	60
	Riordan High	13	12.77	2.51	56
	Sacred Heart High	23	10.83	2.24	58
	Total	**96**	**11.03**	**2.18**	**55**
SF Unified High School	Abraham Lincoln High	126	10.96	2.03	58
	Balboa High	76	9.37	1.50	40
	Galileo High	97	9.86	2.09	54
	George Washington High	153	10.88	2.17	61
	Independence High	27	9.00	1.87	36
	J. Eugene McAteer High	46	9.39	1.97	49
	John A. O'Connell Tech.	22	8.50	2.37	51
	Lowell High	104	12.34	3.08	82
	Mark Twain	8	9.00	1.14	24
	Mission High	51	9.73	1.96	48
	Other SF Public	104	10.12	2.15	53
	Philip Burton	52	10.53	2.10	59
	Raoul Wallenberg Traditional	24	8.67	2.01	50
	Total	**890**	**10.37**	**2.16**	**56**
Grand Total		**1595**	**10.40**	**2.22**	**57**

Spring Re-enrollment

SFUSD students persist in higher numbers to the spring semester than other students as reported in Table 5 below. Re-enrollment in Spring 2001 was 11 to 13 percent higher for San Francisco high schools (SFUSD and SF Private, respectively) compared to other high schools.

Table 5
Re-enrollment in Spring 2001 of
High School Graduates New in the Fall 2000

		Persistence				
		No		Yes		Total
Type	High School	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Other	Foreign High School	3	15%	17	85%	20
	Other California High School	95	38%	155	62%	250
	Other SF High School	1	50%	1	50%	2
	Other US High School	31	46%	36	54%	67
	Other/Unknown High School	22	19%	96	81%	118
	San Mateo High School	36	24%	116	76%	152
Other Total		**188**	**31%**	**421**	**69%**	**609**
SF Private High School	Immaculate Conception Acad.	3	20%	12	80%	15
	Mercy High	1	6%	16	94%	17
	Other SF Private	7	25%	21	75%	28
	Riordan High	2	15%	11	85%	13
	Sacred Heart High	4	17%	19	83%	23
SF Private High School Total		**17**	**18%**	**79**	**82%**	**96**
SF Unified High School	Abraham Lincoln High	13	10%	113	90%	126
	Balboa High	26	34%	50	66%	76
	Galileo High	20	21%	77	79%	97
	George Washington High	16	10%	137	90%	153
	Independence High	12	44%	15	56%	27
	J. Eugene McAteer High	15	33%	31	67%	46
	John A. O'Connell Tech.	7	32%	15	68%	22
	Lowell High	15	14%	89	86%	104
	Mark Twain	4	50%	4	50%	8
	Mission High	16	31%	35	69%	51
	Other SF Public	29	28%	75	72%	104
	Philip Burton	7	13%	45	87%	52
	Raoul Wallenberg Traditional	2	8%	22	92%	24
SF Unified High School Total		**182**	**20%**	**708**	**80%**	**890**
Grand Total		**387**	**24%**	**1208**	**76%**	**1595**

Spring Performance

SFUSD students also performed better in the spring semester than in the fall and outperformed students from SF private schools student groups. Balboa and Mission High School students improved their GPA's to 2.0 and above.

Table 6
Spring 2001 Enrollment and Success of
High School Graduates New in the Fall 2000

HS group	High School	Number	Enrolled Units	GPA	Percent of Units Passed
Other	Foreign High School	17	9.35	2.79	62
	Other California High School	155	11.21	2.32	54
	Other SF High School	1	10.00	3.50	60
	Other US High School	35	10.44	2.03	52
	Other/Unknown High School	95	12.73	2.76	72
	San Mateo High School	116	10.53	2.10	57
	Total	**419**	**11.23**	**2.36**	**59**
SF Private High School	Immaculate Conception Acad.	12	9.17	1.32	25
	Mercy High	15	9.67	2.01	37
	Other SF Private	21	12.71	2.14	56
	Riordan High	11	11.55	2.19	57
	Sacred Heart High	19	12.32	2.34	50
	Total	**78**	**11.32**	**2.06**	**46**
SF Unified High School	Abraham Lincoln High	112	11.04	2.24	58
	Balboa High	50	10.20	2.00	44
	Galileo High	75	11.08	2.09	53
	George Washington High	137	11.72	2.29	58
	Independence High	15	9.27	2.03	55
	J. Eugene McAteer High	30	11.10	1.96	51
	John A. O'Connell Tech.	14	9.64	2.20	55
	Lowell High	89	13.67	2.88	78
	Mark Twain	4	9.25	1.12	33
	Mission High	35	10.21	2.02	53
	Other SF Public	75	10.92	2.15	51
	Philip Burton	45	10.87	2.09	55
	Raoul Wallenberg Traditional	21	10.14	2.38	52
	Total	**702**	**11.28**	**2.25**	**57**
Total		**1199**	**11.27**	**2.28**	**57**

Multi-year Comparison

Finally, table 7 presents a multi-year comparison of SFUSD student performance. Many of the measures show an improving trend. College level placement appears to be holding steady or increasing slightly. Grade Point Averages also seem to be increasing, while Percent of Units passed is holding steady. Fall to spring re-enrollment shows a slight increase of 1% per year from 1998 to 2000.

Table 7

Multi-Year Comparison of SFUSD Achievement

Criterion	Year		
Transfer (College) Level Placement	**1998**	**1999**	**2000**
English	49%	46%	53%
Math	15%	17%	15%
ESL	11%	14%	11%
GPA in Initial Semester	2.07	2.19	2.16
GPA in Second Semester	2.09	2.16	2.22
Percent of Units Passed Initial Semester	55%	56%	56%
Percent of Units Passed Second Semester	55%	56%	57%
Fall to Spring Reenrollment	78%	79%	80%